

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07

NSAE-00 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4609

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP, PE

SUBJECT: VISIT OF MINISTER OF COMMERCE GENERAL
LUIS ARIAS GRAZIANI

1. RECENTLY APPOINTED MINISTER OF COMMERCE WILL SOON BE MAKING HIS FIRST MAJOR OFFICIAL TRIP TO WEST GERMANY, EAST GERMANY, SWITZERLAND, HUNGARY AND USSR. FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS ASKED AMBASSADOR TO DETERMINE IF IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR GENERAL ARIAS TO ALSO STOP OVER IN WASHINGTON ON HIS RETURN TO PERU IN AN OFFICIAL CAPACITY TO MEET WITH APPROPRIATE USG OFFICIALS. ARIAS WOULD LIKE TO MEET WITH SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND WITH DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE OFFICIALS HANDLING SALES OF WHEAT, CORN AND EDIBLE OIL UNDER CCC CREDITS. HE IS ALSO INTERESTED IN OTHER SUGGESTIONS WE MIGHT OFFER. TENTATIVE DATES WOULD BE MAY 21-23.

2. AMBASSADOR AGREED THAT IF SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AVAILABLE AT THAT TIME AND IF SUITABLE PROGRAM COULD BE DRAWN UP, VISIT WOULD PRESENT EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY FOR DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN TWO MAJOR TRADING
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PARTNERS. HE MADE POINT THAT VISIT COULD ALSO PROVIDE

SHARP CONTRAST TO RECENT ATTACKS ON THE U. S. IN PERU'S "NEW PRESS", SOME OF WHICH HAVE BEEN ATTRIBUTED TO GOP OFFICIALS, BY SHOWING DESIRE OF BOTH COUNTRIES TO DISCUSS TRADE MATTERS WHICH ARE BENEFICIAL TO EACH. AMBASSADOR SUGGESTED CALL ON APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS IN STATE DEPARTMENT INCLUDING ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS. HE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT ARIAS MIGHT TAKE OPPORTUNITY OF THIS VISIT TO MEET WITH GROUP FROM COUNCIL OF THE AMERICAS IN NEW YORK. THIS WOULD PROVIDE INTERESTED U. S. BUSINESS COMMUNITY WITH FIRST HAND CONTACT WITH HIGH LEVEL GOP OFFICIAL AND WOULD PROVIDE ARIAS WITH OPPORTUNITY TO ANSWER QUESTIONS AND TO MAKE PERU'S CASE BEFORE INFLUENTIAL GROUP OF BANKERS, BUSINESS MEN AND POTENTIAL INVESTORS. IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT SUCH MEETING COULD BE ARRANGED THROUGH PERUVIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON OR CONGEN IN NEW YORK. WE WOULD ALSO BE WILLING TO LEND A HAND IF THEY DESIRED.

3. ACTION REQUESTED:

WOULD APPRECIATE BEING INFORMED IF ARIAS COULD RECEIVE OFFICIAL INVITATION TO MEET WITH SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF AGRICULTURE AND STATE ON THE DATES INDICATED.

4. COMMENT:

EMBASSY STRONGLY RECOMMENDS THAT OFFICIAL INVITATION BE EXTENDED U. S. EXPORTS TO PERU ARE CLOSE TO \$500 MILLION PER YEAR AND WE CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN OUR POSITION AS THE LEADING SUPPLIER OF PERU'S IMPORTS. VISIT WOULD ALSO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR USG TO EXPLAIN ITS POSITION ON TRA, WHICH PERU HAS CRITICIZED STRONGLY, AND OTHER TOPICS WHICH COULD BE USEFUL IN THE FUTURE. IT WOULD ALSO BE APPROPRIATE FOLLOWUP TO RECENT VISIT TO LIMA OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS WHICH INCLUDED A COURTESY CALL ON MINISTER ARIAS.

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